

IX.

REMARKS

On the Appendix

TO THE

Present State of the Nation.

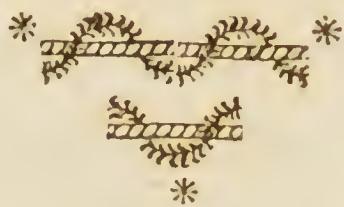
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REMARKS
On the APPENDIX
TO THE
PRESENT STATE
OF THE
NATION.

And he who now to Sense, now Nonsense leaning,
Means not, but Blunders round about a Meaning.

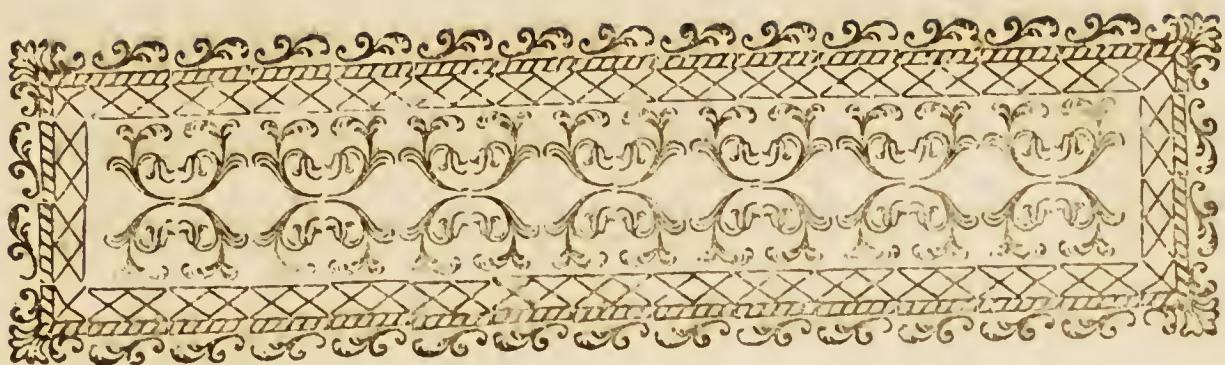
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R E M A R K S, &c.

AMIDS T the whirlwinds of folly and licentiousness, that have lately broke loose amongst us, every dispassionate, sober-thinking man, cannot forbear paying that tribute of regret and concern, which is due, at seeing the unhappy emulation, which at present seems to prevail amongst all ranks of men, to sow the seeds of discontent and dissention, not only in this once happy country, which 'till lately has been looked up to with respect and envy, by

A 3 all

all the neighbouring nations, and whose inhabitants have been considered, even within these few years, as a species of mortals, superior to those of every other country in Europe: Unhappily, too the vertigo is not confined to our own island, but the folly has been spread, in almost every part of its most extensive dominions, and menaces, if the flames of dissension are not soon extinguished, to throw every part of this mighty empire into convulsions and confusion, that to ourselves may prove fatal, and entail distresses upon our posterity.

It has been an axiom amongst the legislators, and men of wisdom, both amongst our own, and all the neighbouring nations, that the foundation of our government, and the pillars that support the superstructure, are framed of materials, so vigorous and strong, as not to

to be shook by the confederacy and power of all the other nations in Europe united together, and if ever it has the fate of many of the powerful antient nations now fallen into ruin, it must be produced by our own wantonness and folly.

The amazing success and events of the late war, convinces us, how little we have to fear from the united powers of the house of *Bourbon* ; and the disagreeable aspect of our own internal madness and folly, seems in its appearances more formidable, than the confederated power of the *Paëte de Famille*.

Can there be a greater crime against government, than to disturb the order and harmony of Society, or with false fears alarm the happiness of mankind, about the credit and safety of their country,

country, in which is united the fortunes of so many thousands of individuals, at a period of time, when the merciless flames of war are already lighted up, though in a distant part of Europe, and an ambitious arrogant rival-neighbour, so insensible of all the horrors produced by the late war, has wantonly made the most unjustifiable incroachments, on a brave, free, unassisted people, in the Mediterranean, which it is more than probable, she never would have dared to attempt, had not a consciousness of our own internal divisions pointed it out to their turbulent haughty chief minister, as a favourable moment to attempt this important acquisition, without danger and impunity.

This much injured country, has surely but little thanks to give to those envious discontented men amongst us,

who by the unhappy errors of their administration, first blew up the flames of those dangerous dissensions, which have since spread abroad, and been nourished and inflamed by their friends and adherents, who have so unjustly, and falsely, exposed to the enemies of their country, all the imaginary poverty and distress they have been pleased to attempt to shew we are involved in, and consequently how unable we are to resent any national affronts that may be offered us by our imperious rivals in power and greatness.

The author of *The State of the Nation*, perhaps now conscious of the great injury he had done his country, by so extravagant and exaggerated a misrepresentation of the national affairs, has in a preliminary discourse to the last edition of his work, attempted

ed an awkward, feeble sort of an apology, to extenuate his error, by declaring it done, “ To check the propensity to war in his countrymen.”

As all great events are produced from small causes, and the history both of our own and every other nation, is pregnant with instances of the fluctuating opinions, and the extremes, to which the mind, of men are liable to be hurried, especially in a free form of government, like our own ; let the author at least be thankful, that the indiscretion of his pen, has produced no unhappy change in the circumstances of the national credit, and the public funds ; but most men indeed, saw into the delusion of the work, that it was only an attempt to frighten men out of their sences, with the hopes to produce a change of ministers, favourable to the author’s own wishes.

Unhappily

Unhappily this game has been too often played with success, to the great injury of this brave opulent nation : Perhaps the great and important change of the ministry in the queen's war, might be produced from so small a cause, as the poultry sermon, of a little, unknown, discontented parson ! Perhaps the glorious acquisitions, and the laurels of the last war, were together blasted at Fontainbleau, from the effects of so trifling a performance, as the *Considerations on the German war*; the author of which, encouraged by his former successes, perhaps now, has furnished his quota in the exaggerated and uncandid *Present State of the Nation*: The work is now, however, happily reduced to that contempt amongst ourselves, to which so deservedly it is condemned.

But

But it is easy to conceive the exquisite pleasure and delight, the perusal of this work must afford to the minister of a rival nation, especially if, as it is believed, he is infatuated with an abhorrence and detestation of this country, which surpasses the common hatred and dislike which generally prevails even amongst men, born in rival nations: The pleasure to such a man, must have a higher relish, because the work, when it first appeared, was supposed to be the production of a person of a rank in life, who had been high in power, and well acquainted with the source of those national distresses, he so boldly asserts, and so feelingly describes ; to see we had amongst us, a man of high rank, so giddy and imprudent, to formally expose the secret distresses of his country, must in some degree sweeten the

the anxieties and mortifications our rivals and inveterate enemies felt, from the discoveries that were made of their own real poverty and distresses, by the absurd contemptable quarrels that happened but a few years ago in our own metropolis, even amongst their own ministers and plenipotentiaries : The injuries, or the disgusts the author of these discoveries might have received from the men in power of his own nation, is an affair that concerns themselves only : If he was looked upon as a criminal in the eye of his own country, the author of *The State of the Nation*, ought not to be considered as less culpable in our own.

But every poison has its antidote, and the errors and mistakes contained in *The State of the Nation*, were too flagrant

flagrant and notorious, to long continue undetected and unexposed : And the judicious able writer of the *Observations*, whoever he may be, has so fully confuted all the falsities and absurdities of that work, and given so distinct and clear an account of the real, happy, vigorous situation of this country, as must entitle him to the thanks of every impartial man.

After the errors and dangerous misrepresentations of *the State of the Nation*, had been so fully confuted and exposed by the author of the *Observations*, it was natural to suppose the subject would of itself languish and expire : But it is the fate of ignorance, never to be convinced, and *An Appendix to the State of the Nation*, has lately appeared, which has again revived

revived the dispute : It is difficult to conjecture, whether the author means this *Appendix*, as an apology for his former errors, a justification of his opinions, or both, or neither, for he has now so confused the subject, that it is not possible to guess what the author would contend for.

The only information one can learn from this *Appendix* is, that a gentleman of high rank and respectable character, who was supposed to be the author of *The State the Nation*, had, " publickly disavowed the writing of " it, by advertisement in the papers, " immediately after its publication, " and upon many occasions since, " has declared, that however he " might approve of the work in ge- " neral, and of its purpose, that he " neither

“ neither was the author of it, nor
 “ agreed with the writer in every
 “ thing it contained.”

I own myself in the number of those, who never saw that declaration, and, who in my own mind, imputed the work to the gentleman here alluded to, but whatever doubts the author of *The State of the Nation*, may have given people of his veracity ; candour will at least oblige them to give him credit for this assertion : It's more than probable, than from a variety of reasons to imagine that this writer of *The State of the Nation*, and *Appendix*, instead of being a man of rank, as was supposed, is only some person of a very, subordinate state, and most assuredly of very confined talents, and totally ignorant of the subject on which he pretends to write.

Was

Was one to judge even with the strictest candour, of the author's profession in life, from fifty different passages in his work, one might be induced to think it is the production of some canting, methodist preacher, who, willing to flatter his patron with sentiments on public affairs, conformable to his own, is not without hopes of procuring some little snug ecclesiastical promotion, in return for the affront he has put upon his country ; be this as it may, surely nothing is more absurd or ridiculous, than to use the language of religion, on those subjects the most foreign from it ; and from the sentiments, the style and language of the author, I will not hesitate to say, he can be neither a politician, a financier, or a man conversant with practical business.

But let the author in p. 9 of the Appendix, speak for himself,---“ Providence, says he, during the war, gave a remarkable blessing to our arms, and in an especial manner directed our councils: But it would be tempting him to withdraw his succour from us, should we consider a state of war, as an happy circumstance, pine at its termination, or wish for its renewal.” I leave it to this presumptuous indecent writer to determine, with what particular nation, Providence is neuter, or makes its alliances, and in answer to this maukish rapsody, will only *en passant* remark, that conformable to his own doctrine, from the unhappy administration of his friend and patron, there is no great appearance, that he was the favourite either of providence or of fortune.

On

On opening the Appendix, from the seeming great candour of the writer, in declaring, “Whoever shews me an error in my pamphlet, will find me disposed to correct it.” I presumed the author would have corrected all mistakes the spirited writer of *The Observations* has confuted in almost every part of that work, and damned it to everlasting shame ; *and tho’ the errors and absurdities tread upon each others heels, so fast they follow*, yet there is scarce a misrepresentation in *The State of the Nation*, that he has corrected in his Appendix : The task, indeed, would have been arduous and difficult, and so much am I his friend, I will just whisper in his ear, That it would be much easier to him, to make *A new State of the Nation*, than correct all the enormous, ridiculous absurdities in that he has already given.

Let us take then a View of those pretended corrections, the writer, with so large a field of subject matter to range in, has thought proper to make in his Appendix : In his *State of the Nation*, with the same candour that pervades every part of the work, with equal truth and decency he has remarked, “ That the *French* colonies “ had indeed put themselves into our “ Hands,” which the author of the *Observations*, with a becoming resent-
ment, at the indignity offered to the conduct and bravery of those spirited officers, and troops, who fought and bled in the different conquests, very justly demonstrates to be false, and as justly insists,----“ They were compel-“ led to submit, they were subdued “ by the dint of *English* valour.”

The

The writer of the *Appendix*, conscious of the ridiculous figure he must make by attempting to justify so unbecoming a reflection, well knowing, there is now residing amongst us, many of those brave officers, ready and willing to give him more sensible and more feeling proofs of the falsity of his assertion, has for reasons best known to himself, thought proper to a little soften his words, though they still convey the same idea, and has now confessed, "That the *French* colonies had indeed *fallen* into the hands of the *English*," but to shew his reluctance to allow the error, he still declares, "that he means not by this acknowledgement, to profess his belief, that *Guadaloupe* and the other islands, made the best resistance their defences were capable of."

Tho' the author of the *Observations*, has in the opinion of every dispassionate, judicious man, fully demonstrated all the absurdities and inconsistencies of *The State of the Nation*, yet in a work where there was so much to do, it is not to be wondered that, some things should have escaped his Notice.

It was the professed design of the author of *The State of the Nation*, to raise in the eyes of mankind, the power and vigour of the *French* Nation, in the same degree that he represented our own to be entirely ruined, and in the last stage of a consumption : He observes, in p. 10, of the Quarto Edition,

“ It is to be noted, that the *French* “ troops received subsistence only du-“ ring the three last years of the war.”

Upon

Upon the perusal of so extraordinary a remark, would not a man of plain common sense, unacquainted with the subject, be apt to ask the question, how a hundred thousand of these meagre hungry fellows, for their army in *Germany* never consisted of less, contrived to support themselves, during the first four years of the war : It is reasonable to conclude, that it was not done from the opulence of their private fortunes, nor could it alone be done by pillaging and moroding ; though it must be confessed, no troops in *Europe* are in these things more active than those of *France* ; but as the author seems entirely unacquainted with the subject, it may not be amiss to inform him, that during the whole time the *French* army were in *Germany*, the pay of the troops was

stopt, and the victualling of the army, was carried on at the King's expence, this they call the *Etape*, and always becomes necessary, when the troops serve out of their own country ; for the pay of a foot-soldier a day, is only five *French Sols*, or two-pence half-penny sterling : The author therefore, as he has strained and tortured truth, a thousand different ways, to raise the power and vigour of the *French* nation, and make his own despicable, might with equal propriety have said, that during the seven campaigns the *French* army was in, in *Germany*, the troops received no subsistence at all.

Of all the absurdities in the *French* government, there is none, perhaps more fatal, though it is a policy, that by superficial people has been greatly applaud-

applauded, than that of infatuating their troops to serve, from a motive of honour, rather than the reward of their pay, for the support of their common soldiers at least, must some-way be supplied by government, and the industry of the labouring subjects : And he who supposes a *French* army of a hundred thousand men, is maintained at a less expence than the same number of *English* troops, imposes upon his own judgment, and considers the subject superficially, and as only relative to their pay, without entering into all the expences and abuses which fall upon civil society, from the privileges and indulgencies granted to the military part : Besides, for want of annual cloathing, and a proper healthy food, to support the troops in the fatigues of war, their hospitals soon become crowded

crowded with sick, in a proportion of more than two to one with our own, when the armies of both nations are equal in number; and it is very well known, a sick soldier in the hospital, is more than double the expence to government, than when he is in health, and able to do his duty : But the enormous expence of the *French* military hospital, and of all the contracts for the army and navy in général, when compared to our own, surpasses all belief.

Amongst ourselves during the late war, we had some few of our contractors, who doubtless accumulated large fortunes, but in no more proportion to those amassed by the *French*, than a drop of water, when compared to the ocean ; nor is it to be wondered at, for if

if men of high rank in the state in *France*, whose duty it is to see that justice be done to their country, will suffer their family connexions, to accept great considerations, that the contractors of every species may have lucrative bargains, they in return, will unavoidably plunder the state, to repay themselves, and those contracts being made under the authority of the sovereign, none dare complain of the abuse.

The author therefore, of *The State of the Nation*, was extremely erroneous in saying, “ The *French* troops “ received only subsistence during “ the last three years of the war,” and equally as much so in declaring that “ The glory of the prince, was “ a resource, that still remained, “ for

" for engaging the *French* subjects to
 " serve without pay ; and that the
 " military honours, had not yet been
 " held out, as the reward of gratui-
 " tous service."

Now every body but even superfi-
 cially acquainted with the nature of
 the *French* government, well know,
 they have at their disposal, but two
 military badges of honour, the great
 and the little cross of St. *Louis*. The
 number of the former is extremely li-
 mitted, and seldom conferred, but
 upon men of high birth, and great
 rank in the army : But every man who
 has served twenty years as a commis-
 sioned officer, from a compact, has
 pretensions to the latter, and however
 trifling this bauble may justly be look-
 ed upon amongst ourselves, so high is
 its value, by the arts of vanity, kept
 up

up by the *French* nation, that few gentlemen of that country, engage in the army, with any other motive, than to acquire this mark of distinction, and no sooner is it obtained, than if their fortune is a little independant, they retire from the service, to enjoy their laurels (*telles qu'ils sont*) in the circle of their friends and acquaintance ; this, connected with a great many other vices in their military government, is a principal cause, why the *French* officers in general are so little acquainted with the principles of the art of war, when compared to the rival nations, where men enter the army as a profession for life, and by acquiring a knowledge of their employment, they propose by it, to advance their fortunes, which from the

the trifling pay in the service of *France*, they can have no expectation of.

And though a gentleman in that country is seldom permitted to enter the army, without some small independent fortune ; yet this added to the pay of a subaltern officer, is not sufficient to provide them with proper necessaries, when they in battle are wounded, or any of those casualties happen to which military men are constantly exposed : Under circumstances like these, it was usual to satisfy the inferior officers with pecuniary gratifications, which is an article of the extraordinaries of their army, of a most exorbitant kind, and what is entirely unknown in our service : But the *French* government during the whole of the late war, was so constantly

stantly distressed for money, that not as formerly, being able to confer pecuniary rewards, they had no resource, than to profusely squander away in gratifications this military honour; and though at the beginning of the war, the number of the Knights of the Order of St. *Louis*, including both those of the land and sea-service, for this order is equally conferred on both, did not amount to more than five thousand, so greatly was they encreased, that at the peace they exceeded more than double this number.

After such palpable and notorious instances of a want of knowledge of those things which are not difficult to be known, can the author of *The State of the Nation* expect the rational part of

of mankind will take upon credit his assertions of the small injuries the *French* nation received from those fatal blows we gave them during the late war, or believe a single word of the present vigorous strength of that nation, and the happy state of their finances, when compared to the feeble exhausted condition he has thought proper to paint our own nation reduced to : It has amongst ourselves always been thought, that the ministers of *France*, from motives of policy, had always concealed the knowledge of a state of their national finances, as the secret of the state, for fear their rivals should discover their distresses, and laugh at the tinsel splendid affectation to power and strength, with which they have so often intimidated and imposed upon their rivals and neighbours; and even but

but a very few years ago, when the abuses in this department was so universally the subject of the enquiry amongst the *Parisians*, in which so many different truths were published relative to the radical and fundamental distresses of the nation, and proofs given so little favourable to the integrity and abilities of the ministers, that to stifle these enquiries, they had no resource left, than to thunder out an ordonnance, to forbid, under pain of the king's displeasure, any body to further comment upon those subjects, which were only cognizable by the sovereign and his ministers.

The *French* financiers, and that nation in general, must doubtless have great obligations to this gentleman for the high sense he entertains of

their national opulence, and the abilities and integrity of the officers of their revenue, in having so expeditiously discharged so enormous a national debt as they were staggering under at the peace; when in the same period of time, our own opulent nation, with a ballance of trade of more than double that of *France*,--a much larger revenue as relative to the expence of our peace establishment, and the utmost efforts of that strict œconomy, which the affairs of the government of *France* are unacquainted with; yet under all these advantages, and ten thousand more that might be brought to account. Our own nation has been yet only able to discharge a little more than seven millions of its debt.

But it really seems more than probable, that the writer is here only sneering

ing at the *French*, and playing the same game upon them, which with great success in making the peace, they played upon the patron of the writer's patron; that is, in the arch manner of *Cervantes*, laughing at them, and still keeping a sedate and grave face: For this able financier and profound politician, with all his respect and partiality to the abilities and virtue of the ministers of *France*, cannot surely be so implicite, as to suppose they have made any great progress in paying the national debt in a despotic government, where the sovereign has an absolute power over his treasury, for which to himself only he is accountable, surrounded with rapacious favourites, and a numerous venal court, whose expensive brilliant dissipations, must be supported by the

bounty and generosity of the sovereign, or had he ever read those manly energetic remonstrances of the parliament of *Paris*, relative to the enormous abuses in this department, the absurd profuse splendor of the court, and the distresses and calamities which prevail in every other part of the nation, then he would not be surprized at the assertion of the author of *The Observations*, in saying, “ that the annual income of that state is this year thirty millions short of its peace establishment,” nor would he, upon hearing it, have burst out into such a profusion of pure Ciceronian eloquence. “ O monsieur de L’Averdy, how this writer traduces you,” much less upon the occasion would he have let loose his exquisite nice talents for raillery, and with a fire and ridicule, peculiar to himself, ironically

nically have called out, “ Lock your-self up, monsieur de L’Averdy, in your own Caisse d’Amortissement, and may you long continue there, the last hope of the *French* finances.”

It long has been the artifice with men disgusted and out of power, to affect to weep over the distresses of their country, and as all national power and greatness is merely relative, to contrast the feeble exhausted condition of our own country, with the superior strength and vigour of that of *France* ; But no writer ever presumed to carry it to such indecent lengths, as the author of *The State of the Nation*, and *The Appendix* ; the palpable injustice he has made of the representation of the affairs of his own country, to make our rivals and invete-
rate

rate enemies appear more formidable and happy than ourselves, is, to use his own words and decent expressions, “ A tissue of the most bare-faced, palpable falsehoods, that ever were attempted to be imposed on mankind.”

If the *French* really were recovered from the fatal blows they received by the consequences of the late war, and we are still struggling and bending under the load of calamities, which the author, like an indulgent friend, has been pleased to exhibit, both to ourselves and our enemies, it would indeed be the most alarming of all circumstances, for our safety and very existence as a free nation, must always depend upon a superior power, to that of our ambitious, inveterate enemies:

When

When many of the extravagant errors relative to the sums borrowed by the *French* to carry on the war, had been fully confuted by the author of the *Observations*, he modestly, though with much seeming reluctance in the *Appendix*, acknowledges----“ I had indeed, by the title I had given the account, said more than the truth ; but in no other part of the book, nor in any reasoning, which I had grounded upon that account, or which seems to refer to it, have I exceeded the truth.” Then he proceeds in the *Appendix*, to copy from some *Grub-street*, manuscript materials, relative to the revenues and finances of *France*, now lying before me, a second state of the sums borrowed by the *French* during the late war, which account, and what he calls *The Reasoning upon*

it, is still more erroneous, and, if possible more absurd than that he had given in his *State of the Nation*.

The author, after being forced from all his entrenchments, and no subterfuge left, to use one of his own quaint phrases, “*Makes Confession his “last Resource*,” and acknowledges, “This I say is what appears upon the evidence of these accounts, for the truth of which, I pretend not to vouch,” had he declared this in his *State of the Nation*, it would in some degree have extenuated his folly; and his ignorance on the subject, would in the opinion of candid men have pleaded some excuse for the errors (if they were not wilfully) this account had lead them into.

But

But from the whole complexion of his reasoning, his thoughts are only to raise the formidable power of the *French* nation ; and it seems more than probable, he thought there was no body amongst us sufficiently acquainted with the resources, power, and finances of *France*, to take up his pen, and expose all those errors and deceptions he has made the basis of the most interesting part of his work ; for if the *French* nation, from the inherent vices in its constitution and the vanity of its sovereigns and ministers, have exhausted the very vitals of that country, and it has long been in a declining, exhausted, consumptive state, and our own nation, at the present moment, from the advantages of a flourishing agriculture, an extensive commerce, the industry of its people,

ple, and a wise body of laws, is in full enjoyment of that amazing power and riches, which no nation, neither ancient nor modern, but ourselves, ever yet were possessed of ; then *the State of the Nation* is an imposition upon mankind, and the author cannot in justice complain, if he partakes of the contempt with which all honest impartial men look upon a work, calculated from private motives, to degrade the most brave, opulent, happy nation, that yet ever was formed by political invention.

To those acquainted with the rapines and disorders that prevail in the administration of the finances of *France*, it must appear astonishing, that a nation, who during the war had borrowed more than fifty-one millions

millions sterling, by perpetual annuities, tontines, &c. &c. besides a large unfunded outstanding debt ; who during the war was reduced to the fatal necessity, to shut up their sinking fund, to apply its produce to defray the expences of the war, and in the eyes of their creditors and all Europe, to make a partial bankruptcy ; who did not hesitate to give the most exorbitant interest for money, from whatever quarter it was offered ; whose contractors did not make less than fifty to sixty per cent profits of their bargains ; who from necessity was obliged to have recourse to so contemptible an expedient, as melting down their plate, who were then staggering under the burthen of a double capitation, and a third vingtieme, circumstances of difficulty, that never had happened in the midst of their distresses

distresses in the memorable year nine of the present century, nor even since the existence of their monarchy, to be struggling under these difficulties at the time of the peace, and now to be told, they have already discharged all the enormous sums borrowed during the war ; but eighteen millions, or every possible disadvantageous circumstance collected to twenty-two millions sterling, whilst not one considerable tax remains upon the people as the consequence of the last war ; to be told this, by a grave author, who pretends to write *States of the Nation*, is such an affront upon common sense, as the most vain, haughty impudent *French* man would even blush to attempt : The *present* bankrupt deranged state of the *East-India* company's affairs, is a just emblem of the

the internal state of their whole government ; and as all the great pillars of the fabric of the whole State is worm-eaten and decayed, without pretending to the gifts of prophecy. If natural causes still continue to produce their effects in their political state, many years cannot expire, before that vain, ambitious nation, will be involved in a greater scene of distress and confusion, than that they experienced by the wild extravagant operations that were brought upon them by the caprice and frolics of the late regent, in the years eighteen and nineteen of the present century.

It were greatly to be wished that the author of *the State of the Nation*, his patron and friends, were the only people amongst us, who have such high notions

notions of the great power and strength of the *French* nation, and such limited and unjust conceptions of the vigour and resources of their own: These sentiments have too long prevailed, to the great injury of this powerful country. The unhappy *Bolingbroke* founds his apology for all the fatal errors committed at the conclusion of the war for the *Spanish* succession, upon these principles, and with more plausibility than truth, declares that our country was more exhausted and weakened by giving strong blows, than the athletick constitution of *France* was in receiving them,

The same sentiments too seemed unhappily to prevail at the conclusion of the late war, and the author of *The State of the Nation* to exculpate the liberal

liberal and impolitick concessions that were made by his friends to an exhausted enemy, staggering under the burthens of the war, and feeling to their vitals the wounds she had received, though at that time we were in the zenith of glory and power, and had raised the supplies of the last year of the war with the same facility as those of the first, yet would he make us believe, that the distresses of the enemy, and our own brilliant successes were equally fallacious, his friends knowing them to be so--“ they wisely resolved “ to profit of their splendor, before “ our enemies should also discover the “ imposition.”

Unhappily there seems long to have prevailed, even amongst the men of high rank in this country, notions as partial

partial to the formidable power of *France*, in the same degree, that they have been partial to its language, its wines, its vices, and its follies: Experience and common sense, may, however, convince every sober thinking man, that from the progress of the original vices in the constitution of that government, the turbulent expensive vanity of the last reign, and the *violent efforts* they were reduced to make in the five extensive wars they have been engaged in, even within the last century, have so totally exhausted the vitals of their country, that the sensible part of their people well know the state has long been in a confirmed consumption, and notwithstanding all the arts of their ministers, in putting on the brilliant appearances of vigour and health, by straining every nerve of government to support

support unnecessary formidable armies, and a most extravagant peace establishment, that it is no more natural, nor more the effects of health, than is the rouge that is daubed upon the face of an antiquated tawdry dutchess, who may justly be looked upon as an emblematic figure of their political government, and by the arts of the toilet, has the same pretensions to beauty, as the nation has to power and greatness, when compared with the vigorous, healthy constitution of our own nervous, robust government: And were the circumstantial proofs of these general out-lines necessary, it might not absolutely be impossible to demonstrate them to the conviction of those infatuated men, who think so unworthily of the power and resources of their own country, and so partially of

D the

the grandeur of a consumptive rival nation.

Yet so great has been the address and refined arts of our enemies, in imposing upon mankind with the appearances of their power, that in a confidence of the timidity of some of our former ministers, we have had the cruel mortification to see the *Pelham's* more than once fit trembling in their Château at *Lewes*, from the fears of an invasion, when with ease they might not only have pulled the mask from the enemy's face, and discovered their smile of ridicule, at our minister's absurd fears, but have thrown them into a real, and much greater consternation, by playing the same game upon them.

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The great commoner and statesman, who so happily and gloriously conducted the late war, and who so well knew all the resources, both of our own powerful country, and all the false pretensions to power and greatness of our vain feeble rivals and enemies : not of a character to be imposed upon by false appearances, so he treated them upon all occasions, both in the active part of the war, and the farcical negotiation they chose to begin for peace with a dignity consistent with his own, and the honour of the nation, and smiled with contempt at their fanforonade affectation, and bravely ventured to fight them upon their own coasts, which after so many repeated blusterings, and seeming formidable preparations in invade this country,

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did not fail to make them objects of ridicule in the eyes of all the courts in *Europe*.

Though some people, whose opinions in other things even deserve respect, have conjectured, that our descents upon the *French* coast, were only done to gratify the wanton humour of the great statesman, who conducted the war, and to demonstrate to the whole world, our own power and superiority, and shew the contempt and insignificancy into which the enemy was sunk : Yet I cannot be so unjust to entertain notions so inconsistent with the general character of that great man, whose name for ever ought to be looked up to, and mentioned with respect, as the greatest statesman our own, or any other country ever produced ; for by

by his amazing abilities in the conduct of the war, was the honour and glory of this country raised to a greater height than any modern nation, but our own, ever yet enjoyed.

And however unsuccessfully some of the descents on the coast of *France* were made, by being a new walk, or branch of war, which was not so long pursued as to give our soldiers time to acquire a perfect knowledge of the best manner of annoying the enemy, which with practise and continuance, they would have acquired ; yet the great consternation which these descents occasioned in every part of the enemies country, and the enormous expence they were put to in supporting two thousand pieces of cannon, and a hundred and fifty thousand troops and militia

litia to defend so extensive a coast, as from *Dunkirk* to *Bayonne*, fully compensated for the expence of the small bodies of our troops employed in these expeditions, and convinces every rational man, of the great success with which this game may be played in a future war.

Let then the author of *The State of the Nation*, blush at his indecency, in attempting to impose upon mankind, a belief of the powerful, opulent state of the *French* nation, and our own, as exhausted, feeble, and on the brink of ruin ; had he reversed the application of his remarks on our distresses, painted them in much stronger colours, and given to his work, *The present State of the French Nation*, then indeed, he would have been near the truth ;

truth ; but what he has not done, may, it is more than probable, soon be done for him ; then every candid and impartial man will see the injustice and falsity of his unpardonable insinuations, “ That *Great-Britain* is in danger of becoming a tributary to *France*, and the descent of the crown dependant on the good pleasure of that ambitious nation.”

Of all the abuses of the liberties of the press that have been made, even in these times of sedition and licentiousness, none ever equalled the affront this writer has put upon the dignity of this country, and the honour of every individual : In this author it is the more unpardonable, because he must write against the convictions of his

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own heart, and in more places than one, seems conscious of the fatal consequences that may proceed from an injury done to the public credit, upon which, as a nation, our very existence and power now depends, and in his own formal canting language, p. 61 of his *Appendix*, he says, “*The Fool may scatter his firebrands and death, and say, am I not in sport?* But the man who reflects upon the fatal consequences which may follow from a wrong measure in government, or from an ill-founded mistaken opinion, adopted by the people, will be cautious how he advances a falsehood, or misrepresents a truth.”

Were these sentiments sincere, he would at least have let his manuscript

State

State of the Nation, sleep in his bureau, nine years, or in the *Appendix* have made a *General Confession* of the errors and falsities contained in it, and candidly have declared, that his only motive in giving so frightful and exaggerated a state of the nation, was to raise discontents and alarms in the minds of men of fortune and property, against the abilities of those ministers, who the sovereign has been pleased to call upon, to transact the national affairs, with the hopes his own friends and patrons, might have enjoyed the sweets of power, which with envy and jealousy, they see in the possession of those men, who enjoy the confidence of the public, and who are more respectable for their talents and abilities, than their birth and high rank.

When

When so many different men are attempting to sow sedition, and disturb the order and harmony of society; and so many writers, from motives of artifice, are straining and torturing truth a thousand different ways, to persuade men of property, that as a nation we are on the brink of ruin, it is consistent with the duty every sober thinking man owes to himself, to examine maturely into a subject of so great importance, in which his happiness as an individual is so deeply concerned.

The able and judicious writer of the *Observations*, has given a portrait so just of the present state of this country, as cannot be contradicted, and the author of the *Appendix* has only to look round him, and see the affluence and ease with which all ranks of people enjoy life; to

to convince himself in this, there is no deception, let him examine the surprizing cultivated state of the whole island, the great value of lands and houses, the high finished, improved state of all our manufactures, and above all, the great ballance of general trade in our favour, the low rate of the interest of money, and the increased state of the national revenue ; then, as all human power and greatness is merely relative, let him compare them with the exhausted, consumptive state of our rivals in glory, and if he is not infatuated with a degree of obstinacy, which is superior to conviction, he will find how little we have to fear from the most violent efforts of an inveterate enemy, and that if ever we fall into the ruins to which many of the antient celebrated nations are reduced,

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and which so many envious discontented men amongst us have so long, and so falsely prophesied, it can alone be brought about by our own dissensions, our own wanton folly and madness.

The author of *The State of the Nation*, conscious how inadequate the strange wild remedies are, with which he proposes to redress those national calamities, has been pleased to impute to us, after proving, thro' his whole work, how little he is acquainted with the principles of a politician or a financier, very piously concludes with a prayer, for the safety of his country, which shews him to be in the true element of his trade; and tho' too often the affectation to sanctity is little less than hypocrisy, it is to be hoped

hoped he will attone by his prayers, for the uneasiness he may have raised in the minds of weak men, about the safety of his country. If the author of the *Observations*, smiled at the ridiculous pedantry of the writer for introducing prayers on a subject, which is foreign to affairs of religion ; it is not to be surprized, that the hypocritical writer of the *Appendix*, should lift up the white of his eyes, and in the same terms of pious contempt, which he has hackneyed, thro' almost every page of his work, very politely and devoutly conclude, “ No wonder this “ unhappy man should attempt to ridicule, when he did not dare to join with me in the solemn address with which I had concluded my paper.” The generality of mankind will probably think the author’s

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prayer for his expiring country, is the most useful part of the work; the remedies he proposes are certainly of a most dangerous kind, and could not fail to throw both the sister-nations, into the same struggles and convulsions, into which his patron, unhappily has involved all our colonies: Let him therefore with his accustomed piety and politeness, no longer complain, that the author of the *Observations* “ has torn off the stipticks he had “ held out to his parent’s gushing “ wounds, and rends her mangled “ body in pieces, that his avarice and “ ambition may glut himself with her “ blood, and that the tongues of his “ dogs may be red thro’ the same.”

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